

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/ISM:TMARTIN:CJB
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BUMINES:WSTOWASSER (DRAFT)
NEA/AFN:ALEGGIO
L/NEA:DSMALL

-----057641 200646Z /23

R 181958Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT: STUDIES OF PHOSPHATES RESERVES

1. BUMINES (INTERIOR) HAS JUST COMPLETED THROUGH A CONTRACTOR AN EXTENSIVE 12-MONTH INVESTIGATION OF PHOSPHATE RESERVES/RESOURCES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. A SUMMARY REPORT IS NOW BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY AS SOON AS AVAILABLE (PROBABLY SOMETIME NEXT MONTH).

2. DT CONTAINED IN THE NEW PHOSPHATES STUDY WAS COLLECTED AND ENCODED FOR ENTRY IN BUMINES' MINERALS AVAILABILITY SYSTEM (MAS). THE DATA WAS GATHERED FROM EXISTING LITERATURE, LARGE LANDHOLDERS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND INDIVIDUAL PROSPECT HOLES. BY MODELLING SIX CASE MINES, REPRESENTATIVE OPERATING AND CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. THE STUDY ALSO INCLUDES DATA ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF OPERATING MINES.
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TA D G OGRA HICASPECTS, AND PROBABLE GRADE-RESOURCES.

3. FYI: THE MAS IS BUMINES' COMPUTERIZED MINERALS ANALYSIS SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM, WHICH HAS AN INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE, INCORPORATES DATA ON THE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF ORE DEPOSITS, PRODUCTION POTENTIALS, EXTRACTION METHODS, AND TRANSPORTATION ASPECTS OF OPERATING MINES

AND IDENTIFIED RESERVED/RESOURCES. AS SUCH, THE MAS

PROVIDES A BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE SUPPLIES, COSTS AND CONTINGENCIES. END FYI.

4. BUMINES HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PROMOTING A SIMILAR CONTRACTOR-CONDUCTED STUDY FOR THE PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS OF MOROCCO AND THE WESTERN SAHARA. EXECUTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE COMPARABLE STUDY WOULD OF COURSE HINGE UPON THE PARTICIPATION, SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE GOM, AND OCP IN PARTICULAR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS ASKED TO CONTACT THE GOM AT A LEVEL IT FEELS APPROPRIATE TO DETERMINE THE DEGREE OF INTEREST WHICH MAY BE PRESENT FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. IN DOING SO, THE EMBASSY MIGHT NOTE THAT:

-- AT THE JUNE 1978 ANNUAL MEETING OF ISMA (THE PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION), OCP IS REPORTED TO HAVE INDICATED A STRONG INTEREST IN A GLOBAL RESERVE/RESOURCE STUDY. THE RECENTLY COMPLETED FLORIDA STUDY, COUPLED WITH A COMPARABLE ONE FOR MOROCCO AND THE SAHARA, WOULD IN EFFECT PROVIDE A BROAD-BASED REVIEW OF THAT NATURE.

-- IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT GOM INTEREST, BUMINES IS PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARSED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ITS PHOSPHATES ANALYST (WILLIAM STOWASSER) AND AN MAS EXPERT (JOHN STONE). IN SUCH A MEETING, BUMINES WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN IN GREATER DETAIL THE METHODS INVOLVED IN THE FLORIDA STUDY, ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ASPECTS THAT MAY NOT BE COVERED IN THE SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED SUMMARY, AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW A SIMILAR STUDY MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN FOR MOROCCO AND THE SAHARA. NATURALLY USG -OFFICIALS INVOLVED WOULD NOT THEMSELVES TRAVEL IN THE SAHARA.

6. AMBASSADOR ANDERSON HAS SEEN AND CONCURRED WITH THIS CABLE. VANCE

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